

THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

BLACK LIVES MATTER SEATTLE-  
KING COUNTY, ABIE EKENEZAR,  
SHARON SAKAMOTO, MURACO  
KYASHNA-TOCHA, ALEXANDER  
WOLDEAB, NATHALIE GRAHAM,  
AND ALEXANDRA CHEN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF SEATTLE,

Defendant.

No. 2:20-cv-00887-RAJ

DECLARATION OF AISLING COONEY  
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR  
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

I, Aisling Cooney, declare and state as follows:

1. The information contained in this declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I am of majority age and competent to testify about the matters set forth herein.

2. I am a 25 years old and am a graduate student. I have lived in Seattle for 1 year.

3. I attended protests nearly every day between May 30 and June 7.

4. On June 7, I attended a protest near the East Precinct police station on Capitol Hill. My partner and I were at the eastern barricade at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Pine Street.

5. My partner and I arrived around 7pm. We were sitting at the barricade with approximately 100 other people, most of whom were also sitting.

6. The police near us were not wearing masks.

7. At approximately 8pm, we saw police in riot gear and gas masks coming toward us.

8. In response, most of the protesters stood up and opened up their umbrellas for protection.

9. The protest had been peaceful up to this point and I did not see anyone throwing anything.

10. The police did not give any notice that pepper spray and flash bangs would be used.

11. The cops with bicycles began pushing people and knocking them down with their bicycles.

12. Video of this encounter is available at <https://twitter.com/menilivne/status/1269831790799159302?s=09>. I can be seen in the upper left part of the video in a gray helmet and green jacket.

13. The riot cops then began macing people and firing flash bangs. A flash bang exploded near me and I became disoriented. In the video, you can see me stumbling in a circle for over 25 seconds.

14. More police approached us from behind and trapped us between the two groups of police. There were more police than protesters.

15. The officers grabbed me and started shoving me from officer to officer. I was still disoriented and trapped between the police and other protesters.

16. One of the officers pepper sprayed me in the face from approximately 1 foot away. This can be seen at 0:53 in the video.

17. I turned away from the spray and the officer continued to spray me in the back of my head and neck.

18. I was in extreme pain and went to the medic tent. They assisted me in washing off the pepper spray off my skin.

19. I developed a large rash in response to the pepper spray. I was coughing a lot and also had trouble breathing.

20. The medics thought my reaction was severe and one of them drove me to the emergency room.

21. I was monitored for several hours at the emergency room for anaphylaxis.

22. When I was discharged, the doctor said I had had a very severe reaction and prescribed me an epi-pen.

23. I intend to continue protesting, but fear for my health and safety if the police continue to use pepper spray. I now take my epi-pen with me to all protests.

Executed this 11th day of June 2020 at Seattle, Washington.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

By: Aisling Cooney

AISLING COONEY